

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 were canceled in the first Preliminary Amendment filed in the present application. Claims 20-23, 30-35, 37, 39-41, and 46-50 are canceled herein; and claims 24, 28, 29, 36, 38, 42, and 51 are amended herein. Thus, claims 24-29, 36, 38, 42-45, and 51-56 are presently pending, with claims 24, 28, 42, and 51 being independent.

In the Office Action of February 3, 2006, claims 20-23, 28-37, 39-41, and 46-50 are rejected based upon several prior art references ("prior art rejections"). Additionally, all of the pending claims have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-11 and 14-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,881.

This Amendment is accompanied by a Terminal Disclaimer filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321. The Declaration, executed by the assignee of record of the present application, complies with the provisions of this section and should consequently remove co-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,185,881 from consideration with respect to obviousness-type double patenting. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that any such rejection based wholly or partly on the '881 patent be withdrawn.

Because claims 24, 38, 42, and 51 are rejected only under obviousness-type double patenting, each of these claims has been rewritten in independent format to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. That is to say, there are no prior art rejections of

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claims 24, 38, 42, and 51 in the Action and the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer should now place these new independent claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 25-27 depend from claim 24, claims 43-45 depend from claim 42, and claims 52-56 depend from claim 51. Furthermore, the necessary amendments have been made so that claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 24, and claim 36 depends from claim 38. These dependent claims recite additional features of the invention not shown or suggested in the prior art.

The remaining claims (i.e., claims 20-23, 30-35, 37, 39-41, and 46-50) have been canceled and any prior art rejections thereof are now moot.

The objection to claim 30 is also moot because of the cancellation of this claim. Applicant notes, however, that the misspelling has been corrected in claim 38, which incorporates the language of claim 30.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

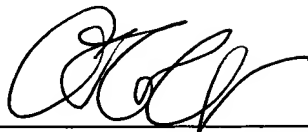
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

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Respectfully submitted,

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